

REMARKS

Claims 1-20 are presently pending in this application. By this amendment claim 1 has been amended and new claims 9-20 have been added. Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-8 under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over Wise in view of Birdwell. Wise relates to a system that allows a user to access information originally formatted for audio/visual interfacing on a computer network via a simple telephone. As the Examiner has noted, Wise does not teach or suggest using an electronic program guide in connection with the information access process.

The Examiner has cited Birdwell as teaching a system of providing announcements of upcoming broadcast information. To the extent Birdwell would have access to an electronic program guide (used to ascertain what upcoming broadcasts exist) the Examiner takes the position that one of ordinary skill would find it obvious to incorporate the Birdwell broadcast information access into the Wise system to achieve the Applicants' invention. Applicants respectfully traverse this position, in that the combination suggested by the Examiner would not correspond to the Applicants' system.

The Applicants' system allows the user to access supplemental network-resident information about audio/video programs using speech. The Applicants' system uses a search engine commander that issues at least one search request to at least one search engine through the network connection. The search engine commander issues

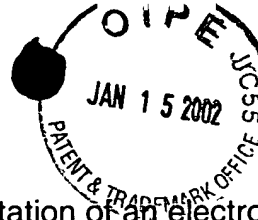
the search request based on a semantic representation of the user's request wherein a representation of an electronic program guide is used to constrain the search request.

Thus, with the Applicants' system the user could utter a search request like, "Show me more information about the main actress." The search engine commander would then formulate a search request, but in doing so it would access the electronic program guide to confirm the search. In this case, the search engine commander would utilize the electronic program guide to ascertain what program the user is speaking about, and thus ascertain what actress the user is speaking about. This additional information obtained from the electronic program guide constrains the search request so that only the more relevant information is sought.

For example, if the user happens to be watching "Some Like it Hot", the electronic program guide would constrain the user's above search request to ascertain information about Marilyn Monroe.

The references relied upon by the Examiner, either singly or combined, would not achieve this result. It is respectfully submitted that the Wise system would not know to secure information about Marilyn Monroe unless the user expressly uttered such request. Adding the Birdwell system to Wise would still not achieve Applicants' result. To the extent Wise issues search requests based on user utterances, there is no teaching in either Wise or Birdwell that the Wise system may be modified to use electronic program guide information to constrain the search request as uttered by the user.

In order to more fully distinguish the Applicants' invention in this regard, claim 1 has been amended to replace the next to the last indented recitation with a new



recitation that more fully recites how Applicants' representation of an electronic program guide constrains the search request.

In view of the foregoing it is respectfully submitted that claim 1 is now fully allowable over the references of record.

The newly added claims 9-20 are also believed to be allowable over the references of record. Newly added claim 9 depends upon claim 1, discussed above. Newly added claims 10-15 and 16-20 are method claims. In claim 10 an electronic program guide is used to constrain the search request. In claim 16 an electronic program guide is used to filter the search results.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is now in a condition for allowance. Should the Examiner wish to discuss this amendment or any matters pertaining to this application, the Examiner is encouraged to call the undersigned at (248) 641-1600.

Respectfully submitted,

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ATTACHMENT FOR CLAIM AMENDMENTS

The following is a marked up version of each amended claim in which underlines indicates insertions and brackets indicate deletions.

1. (Amended) A system for accessing supplemental network-resident information about an audio/video program comprising:

a network connection through which network-resident information may be obtained;

a speech recognizer receptive of a user's input speech request for information about a program;

a natural language parser coupled to said speech recognizer for extracting a semantic representation of the user's request for information;

a data store for storing a representation of an electronic program guide;

[a search engine commander coupled to said parser for issuing at least one search request to at least one search engine through said network connection based on said semantic representation and based on said electronic program guide; and;]

a search engine commander that issues at least one search request to at least one search engine through said network connection, wherein said search engine commander issues said at least one search request based on said semantic representation and using said representation of an electronic program guide to constrain said search request; and

a search results processor for receiving search results in response to said search request and for providing at least a portion of the received search results to the user as information about an audio/video program.